

# RPS ROUNDUP

8 March 2024



## Head's Up

Dear parents and carers,

On Monday evening we had our new look Year 10 revision evening for students and parents. It was great to welcome so many parents to the event and the students too. This was an entirely new format and, judging by the feedback from parents, it is one that we wish to continue going forward. Thank you to all the staff who led and organised the event. We will be organising one for Year 9 parents early in the summer term.

The outgoing SLG had their meal at Pizza Express on Tuesday evening, together with key members of staff. What a lovely occasion it was. It was a privilege to have the opportunity to celebrate their achievements and to discuss their plans for the future with them. We are so grateful for the fantastic job that they have done and the thorough way in which they have briefed successors.

Thank you to Miss Casey and Mandela House for organising the ever-popular Roundwood's Got Talent. Although I wasn't able to attend, I have heard some very good things about the event.

Have a lovely weekend.

Alan Henshall  
Headteacher

Our new SLG! 



## What's On

- 10 March - British Science Week
- 10 March - Yr13 Revision Support Eve
- 12 March - Yr11 & 13 Drama Showcase
- 12 March - Yr12 Parent Consultation Eve
- 13 March - Yr12 EPQ Presentation Eve
- 14 March - Yrs7,11&13 Group Photos
- 15 March - Trampoline National Finals
- 18 March - Reading Week
- 18 March - ECO Week

Please check our [SCHOOL CALENDAR](#) for all key dates and school events



## Student Safety



Please be considerate when dropping off and do not stop on the clear markings or double yellow lines outside school. There was a significant crash there last week with others having to manoeuvre around stopped cars - luckily no child was hurt. Thank you

## Level 3 Algebra Award

The Level 3 Algebra Award is a course aimed at stretching students beyond their GCSE skills. We entered 63 Year 11 students for the Award and they all passed! A number of them scored extremely high marks and some only dropping 1 point and scoring a phenomenal 89/90! Well done to you all, what an amazing achievement.



| Roundwood Park - A Place to Flourish |



## Welcome...

Following the recent Parent Governor Election, we are delighted to announce that **Laura Clark** and **Sonja Stocks** will be joining the RPS Governing Board.

Thank you to all those who nominated themselves for the two vacancies.

FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:





## Year 12 & 13 History/PRE Trip to Rome

Amidst the bustling streets of Rome, a group of eager students embarked on a journey through time, exploring the ancient wonders and cultural treasures of this historic city. Over the course of three days, they delved into the heart of Rome's past, discovering its iconic landmarks and hidden gems.

### Day 1: The Colosseum, Forum, and Palatine Hill

The journey began with a visit to one of Rome's most renowned landmarks, the Colosseum. Guided by knowledgeable historians, students learned about the significance of the Colosseum in Roman society and its enduring legacy. Next was the Roman Forum, a sprawling complex of ruins that served as the political, religious, and commercial centre of ancient Rome, gaining an insight into life in ancient times.

### Day 2: Vatican City and the Sistine Chapel

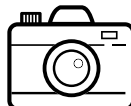
Day two brought the students to the heart of Christianity. Stepping into St. Peter's Square, they were greeted by the towering dome of St. Peter's Basilica, a masterpiece of Renaissance architecture, and inside they marvelled at exquisite works of art, including Michelangelo's Pieta, before ascending to the top of the dome for panoramic views of the city. The highlight of the day, however, lay within the Vatican Museums - the Sistine Chapel. As students entered this sacred space, necks craned upward to take in the breathtaking frescoes adorning the ceiling and walls. Michelangelo's iconic depiction of the Creation of Adam left a lasting impression, sparking discussions about art, religion, and the human spirit.

### Day 3: Catacombs of San Sebastian and Trevi Fountain

On the final day of their adventure, the students delved into the underground catacombs of San Sebastian, a labyrinth of ancient burial chambers and passageways. Led by our knowledgeable guides, they learned about the early Christians burial site hidden in these subterranean tunnels, their faith unyielding amidst persecution. Emerging into the sunlight, the students made their way to the Trevi Fountain, a dazzling masterpiece of Baroque artistry, and tossed coins into the fountain, following the tradition that promises a return to Rome.

We enjoyed some lovely weather and there was enough spare time that students were able to explore Rome at their own pace, discovering quaint cafes (or Italian McDonalds!) and indulging in several delicious flavours of gelato! Whether we were wandering through picturesque piazzas or soaking in the sights and sounds of the city, each moment was a testament to the beauty and charm of Rome. We hope students left this fantastically unique city with their hearts full of memories and their minds enriched by the wonders of this ancient place.

Click here for more photos! →



During Lunch, on the 19th of March in the main hall, you will find...

**SWAP AND SHOP**

For eco-week, cadbury is hosting a clothes swap so... Swap your unwanted clothes for new (for you) clothes for free OR Bring your 50ps, £1s and £2s to buy these items! THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO SHOP HELPING TO SAVE THE PLANET BY RECYCLING PRE-LOVED CLOTHES, WITH ALL PROFITS AND EXCESS CLOTHES BEING DONATED!

As part of ECO Week pls send in your preloved clothes!

**2nd Hand Uniform Sale**

Saturday 23 March  
12.30-2.00pm  
School Hall

**HUGE thanks for your support of our Quiz & Raffle!**

**WOW!!!**  
**£2,400!!**

**QUIZ NIGHT**

**FESTIVAL**  
on the field

Click here for tickets & we will get a donation!

**FOLLOW US!** →



You will also find lots of information on our website:







## Hello and Goodbye to our SLG!



Our new SLG has been busy already! They had a full day of training last week as they prepare to take on their new leadership roles, and then this week attended their first full SLG Meeting. They have really hit the ground running and will be posting all of their HOUSE related activities on the @rps housesystem Instagram page - please give us a follow [HERE](#). We wish them all the very best of luck and we're excited to see what they will achieve over the coming year.

> [CLICK HERE](#) to view details of our new SLG <

Whilst our new SLG begin their journey, it also means we have to say goodbye to our outgoing SLG. They had a wonderful celebratory evening this week, eating pizza, presenting awards and enjoying their successes of the last year. Another fabulous team of hard-working, dedicated young adults, they have made great strides over the last year and managed a huge amount of events and activities. **THANK YOU 23-24 SLG, we'll miss you!**

## Meet our Student Leaders

Meet Eloise and Benji...

"Hello everyone, we just want to say we are very excited to take on the role of Head Students this year - we feel honoured to have been elected to represent the school. Having both the common goal and passion to create an environment which is encouraging and inspiring, we hope our year as Head Students will bring about positive and lasting change as we aim to embody fun, enthusiasm and motivation in everything we do. We believe these qualities will serve as the fuel that enhances the already existing flame RPS has: happiness and inclusivity. We are also excited to work with our brilliant SLG team where we want to focus on our communication - so look out for all of our Instagram posts!!"



Click here & follow us!



## Yr12 Degree & Apprenticeships Fair

Last week our Yr12 students headed to Tottenham Hotspur's football ground to attend a University & Apprenticeship Fair. It was a really informative day, allowing them to discover all of the options available to them post-18. The aim was to start them thinking about what their futures might hold, we hope it was useful to them.



## Community News

Please follow the links below for further information...

- [Revision Strategies for those with SEND](#)
- [Holiday Activity Programme - St Albans](#)
- [Holiday Activity Programme - Hemel](#)
- [Harpenden Choral Society](#)
- [Easter GCSE Music Course](#)
- [Child CPR Study - Kings College, London](#)
- [Supporting Links Parent Workshops](#)
- [Easter Holidays Sports Camps](#)
- [Beezee Bodies Healthy Food Swaps](#)
- [Aldwickbury Golf Club Casino Night](#)

## PSHCE@RPS



In PSCE this term, students are studying the **Health & Wellbeing** topic. In Year 7 students are focusing on health and puberty, including healthy routines. In Year 8 they are exploring emotional wellbeing, mental health and discovering healthy coping strategies. Year 9 are reflecting on healthy lifestyles, diet, exercise and first aid.

To support your child with any of these topics, and keep the conversations going at home, please use our Tooled-Up website for support >> [CLICK HERE](#)  
You can also visit the Wellbeing page on our website where you will find details on our framework of 'The Five Ways to Wellbeing' >> [CLICK HERE](#)



5 ways to wellbeing

If you have any queries please get in touch with our PSHCE Lead: [s.mooney@roundwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:s.mooney@roundwoodpark.co.uk)

# FOLLOW US!



You will also find lots of information on our website:





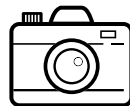
## Mandela HOUSE Week

It's been a fantastic HOUSE Week for Mandela with something different going on every day for us all to enjoy - cake sales, 'Chill Out Tuesday', 'Guess the Number of Sweets in the Jar', a creativity competition, foodbank appeal, our fabulous Roundwood's Got Talent event (more details below) and of course the legendary Leg Wax! **PLEASE HEAD TO OUR LEG WAX SPONSORSHIP PAGE > [HERE!](#)**

The aim of our HOUSE Weeks is to engage as many students as possible while having lots of fun and raising funds and awareness for our 3 school charities, and we're delighted to say that so far Mandela House has raised over £1000! THANK YOU RPS community for always supporting us, we couldn't do it without you.

Thank you also goes to our brilliant Mandela House Captains - both incoming and outgoing have worked so hard this week in making a success of all of the events.

**Click for more Mandela House Week photos!** →



## Roundwood's Got Talent

It was a truly wonderful evening at Roundwood's Got Talent. We really do have some amazingly talented students, we're so proud of them for battling their nerves and putting on a fantastic show for us all to enjoy. The judges had a very difficult job, as any one act could have taken the top spot, but in the end it came down to Eadie, Rose and Leo's spellbinding magic show - they could actually take this act to the UK's second best talent show, Britain's Got Talent, and do well!

In second place was Beatrice for her incredible piece on the cello, and third place was Scarlett for her beautiful rendition on the flute. Huge congratulations to all of our performers - Evie & Dorothy, our creative singing duo; Izzy, Isla, Daisy, Milly, the super-cool girl rock band; and Flo, Lana, Cara and Elsie, for their stunning solos. Huge thanks also to RPS band 'Strike Free', for playing some rocking (and very loud!) tracks in the interval.

See you next year!

**Click for more RGT photos!** →



## Careers Corner



**Dates for the Diary:**

**West Herts College**

Watford Open Day

Saturday 9 March - 9.30am-1pm

More information >> [HERE](#)

**Oaklands College Open Evenings:**

Welwyn Garden City

Tuesday 23rd April - 5pm-7pm

St Albans

Thursday 25th April - 5pm-7pm

More information >> [HERE](#)

**Upcoming School Career Services Dates:**

**Y12 Future Options Day 4**

University vs Apprenticeships Day - 21 March

**Y10 PSHE Day**

Careers Investigation - 26 March

**Y12 - Professional Work Placement Week - 13-17 May**

**Y10 - Work Shadowing Day - Tuesday 11 June**

**Local live theatre**

**Beginning**  
22nd - 30th March 2024  
The Barn Theatre, Welwyn

# CURTAIN CALL

Phillip Pullman - The Book of Dust

Wednesday 20th March

3.30pm-6.00pm

| Head to ParentPay soon to sign up |

| Popcorn & drinks provided |

## OWENS CHARITY WEEK!

25th -28th March

**Quiz and Pizza**

Wednesday 27th - sign up on ParentPay

**Easter Code Breaker**

Hunt around the school to crack the code

**Wishing Well**

Add your wish to the wishing well

**Cake Sales**

Daily cake sales

**House Basketball**

Support your house by showing your colour with house badges

**FOLLOW US!** →



You will also find lots of information on our website:







# National Careers Week #NCW2024

What a fantastic week of inspirational assemblies to all of our year groups! We are extremely grateful to our RPS Alumni, RPS parents, and others in our community, who were willing to come in and share their career journeys with our students, offering advice, acquired knowledge and sheer enthusiasm to ignite young minds on the opportunities that lie ahead. As staff, we all got involved in National Careers Week and displayed posters around the school detailing each of our career histories, our academic journeys and aspirations. Along with lots of form time activities and teachers raising awareness of job opportunities within each subject area, we hope to have given students real food for thought as to their next academic steps or what they may like to pursue once they have left RPS.

If you think you could offer career insight or support in this area, we run various post-18 events throughout the year and would love to hear from you. Please email our Careers team on [careers@roundwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:careers@roundwoodpark.co.uk)

WORLD BOOK DAY

RPS Community

WORLD BOOK DAY

As always, we used World Book Day as an opportunity to reach out to our local primary schools to promote reading and literacy. On Wednesday three of our Year 12 students were guest story tellers at Roundwood Park Primary. It was quickly clear that one story was not enough and 2 or 3 stories and many questions later our indulgent Year 12s were finally allowed to leave!

On Thursday we returned to Wood End Primary for our yearly session with their Reception class talking about what colours make us happy. A great favourite with all students, we always end with a mass colouring-in of the letters that spell H-A-P-P-Y.



## Read all about it... Vol 10

9 March 2024

### WORLD BOOK DAY

At Roundwood Park, we promote books every day. But World Book Day was celebrated in style on Thursday with a whole host of lovely events. The whole school participated in a shared reading of the opening chapter of **The Blue Book of Nebo** in registration. The author sent us all a lovely video message which we enjoyed before settling in to start the day with the opening of the novel. The library has our very own beautiful **Blue Book of Roundwood** in which students are invited to write their own thoughts about some of the themes of the book.

Then, form groups participated in the **Book Face Challenge**. The form group who were able to guess the most correct staff in the pictures won a prize! On top of all this, we had a staff competition run by the librarians. And books were taken into the canteen for students to have a 'lunch date with a book'...



Lots of students chose to spend the evening celebrating World Book Day in the best way possible by settling in for a cosy evening in the library, just reading. Well, there was also pizza, but mostly reading. A perfect end to a bookish day.







## A Level Textiles Lingerie Design Workshop

Our Year 12 and 13 students recently took part in a lingerie design workshop hosted by Laurie Van Jonsson. Laurie works in contour fashion, specialising in lingerie design. She has run her own business and also designed lingerie for high street brands Topshop, Next and River Island. Laurie also designed swimwear for an Australian swimwear brand and now runs Van Jonsson Design, a consultancy working and supporting lingerie designers in building their brands, the intricacies of pattern making, garment construction and design.

Laurie created a bespoke 'briefs' workshop for our students and during the session they looked at design trends and then designed, selected specialist fabrics, dealt with pattern cutting and made a final outcome.

Students gained professional insight and a taster for how the fashion industry works and what it is like to make a garment from their own design idea.

A big thank you to Storm, Heather, Tegan, Zaynab, Olivia and Jemima for working so brilliantly and creating some fabulous outcomes.

## Languagenut Challenge



Well done to two of our Y8 students, Nap Ying Y and Lana R, who scored within the top 50 in a global modern languages competition run by Languagenut. They received Amazon gift vouchers (and a bit of chocolate!) as prizes. Well done too, to the prize winners of our in-house leaderboard - Y7 Heidi W, Y8 Isabel W, Y9 Ella B, Y10 Rafi A & Y11 Jacsen L.

Over 80 RPS students took up the Languagenut challenge at the end of February. Around 1500 schools in the UK took part, with over 2000 globally, with schools from 57 different countries! **We are very proud of all winners!**



## Wellbeing@RPS

### Feelgood February

As part of our Feelgood February event, the Library held a special Wellbeing Wednesday. Students were asked to leave Chromebooks and text books at the door and were encouraged to relax and do something other than their studies for a while. There were tables set up for Mindful Colouring, Mindful Lego and of course curling up with a good book was also on the agenda. The Lego in particular was a huge success and we ended up with all sorts of weird and wonderful creations!

It was such a great success we are hoping to make this a regular event.



## Residential Trips



March 24 - Trampoline Squad - Finals

March 24 - World Challenge Training W'end

March 24 - GOLD DofE Night Walk

March 24 - Y11 DofE Expedition

May 24 - Y10 History Tour Berlin

May 24 - Y10 DofE Expedition

May 24 - Y8/9/10 Swindon Netball Tour

June 24 - Y10 Geography South Wales Trip

June 24 - Y9 Science Trip Eurospace, Belgium

June 24 - Y12 Biology Field Trip - Yorkshire

June 24 - Y8 MFL Trips - France & Germany

July 24 - Y12 Geography, Liverpool

April 25 - Ski Trip, Jay Peak, USA

## WE ARE HIRING!

- Sixth Form Student Support Officer and Learning Mentor
- PE Teacher
- Assistant Headteacher KS5
- Maths Teacher
- Design & Tech Teacher

All current vacancies are advertised on our [website](http://www.roundwoodpark.co.uk)

>>> Click to see our **SPRING CLUBS** programme <<<